General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

4

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Treasurer, Secretary and Standing Committees.

Annual Report of the Society.

ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY.

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

New-York:
JOHN W. AMERMAN, PRINTER,
No. 47 Cedar Street.

1874.

Officers of the Society for 1874.

WILLIAM H. GEDNEY, *President*, 67 Horatio Street.

WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, *First Vice-President*, 1308 Broadway.

HAVILAH M. SMITH, *Second Vice-President*, 61 Perry Street.

DANIEL D. WRIGHT, *Treasurer*, 463 East Houston Street.

THOMAS EARLE, *Secretary*, 472 Broadway.

JOHN E. HOAGLAND, *Collector*, 19 Cottage Place.

General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from 1872,	$321 08	
Rents—Broadway and Park Place,	24,100 00	
" Chambers-street,	3,000 00	
" Mechanics' Hall,	7,800 00	
Dividends on Mechanics' National Bank stock,	2,027 50	
Interest, in gold, on U. S. stocks,	2,100 00	
" in currency "	480 00	
" on call loans,	268 12	
Premium on Gold,	276 00	
U. S. Trust Company,	21,737 50	
Memberships,	700 00	
Certificates,	6 00	
Total receipts,		$62,816 20

DISBURSEMENTS.

Committees—Finance,	$5,719 00
Pension,	7,500 00
Library,	10,300 00
Literary and Scientific,	1,900 00
School,	2,500 00
Building and Sinking Fund,	10,268 12

Ground Rent, Chambers-street,.....	$125 00	
Taxes and Croton water, Mechanics' Hall,.....	1,700 00	
U. S. Trust Company, on call,.....	21,000 00	
Officers' Salaries,.....	800 00	
Janitor and Door-keeper,.....	936 00	
Current expenses,.....	12 35	
Total disbursements.....		$62,760 47
Balance in Mechanics' National Bank,.....		$55 73
To which add balance on call in Trust Co.,.....		4,000 00
Making the total balance in Treasury,.....		$4,055 73

In presenting my Annual Report herewith, it gives me great pleasure to state, that amid all the losses and defaulting that have occurred around us, the treasures and trusts of this Institution, to the best of my knowledge and belief, remain entirely intact and unimpaired, therein displaying the wisdom and prudence of the Society, in firmly adhering to the solid and safe in their investments, and shunning the ephemeral and speculative.

No event worthy of note or comment has occurred in this department during the year that has just passed, and soliciting a careful investigation of my administration of the same, the whole is most respectfully submitted.

DANIEL D. WRIGHT,
Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

1873.				
Jany.	1.	Cash on hand, as per report, this day, ...	$283 90	
Feby.	19.	" received from D. D. Wright, Treas.,	1,000 00	
April	16.	" " " " "	1,000 00	
Oct.	17.	" " " " "	1,000 00	
Dec.	5.	" " " " "	2,719 00	
		" " " Beekman Ins. Co.,....	17 56	
				$6,020 46

DISBURSEMENTS.

1873.				
Dec.	31.	Cash paid Repairs of Buildings,	$551 50	
"	"	" Plumbing,	51 90	
"	"	" Advertising, Stationery and Postage,	158 33	
"	"	" Printing,	322 70	
"	"	" Gas Light, old claim of Company,	2,719 00	
"	"	" " current use,	1,410 72	
"	"	" Insurance,	275 00	
"	"	" Assessment,	10 08	
				5,499 23
		Cash in hand,		$521 23

The Finance Committee would report that the property of the Society is all in good repair, and that there has not been any change in the tenants since the last report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN T. CONOVER,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

RECEIPTS.

1873.				
Jan'y	1.	Balance,	$1,119 00	
Feb'y	10.	Cash from Treasurer,	2,000 00	
May	8.	" " "	1,500 00	
Aug.	12.	" " "	2,000 00	
Nov.	10.	" " "	2,000 00	
				$8,619 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

1873.				
March	31.	Cash paid Pensioners,	$1,595 00	
June	30.	" " "	1,726 00	
Sept.	30.	" " "	1,702 00	
Dec.	31.	" " "	2,228 00	
		" " Printing, Stationery and Incidental Expenses,	60 00	
				7,311 00
		Balance on hand, January 1, 1874,		$1,308 00

Pensions paid to Members,.....	$923 00	
" " Widows,.....	3,770 00	
" " Children, ...	110 00	
Donations " Members,.....	391 00	
" " Widows,.....	1,937 00	
Funeral expenses of Widows,.....	120 00	
		$7,251 00

Number of Pensioners—

December 31, 1872,.....	5	Members,	73	Widows,	6	Children,	Total,	84
Placed on Roll during 1873,	1	"	1	"	0	"	"	2
	6	"	74	"	6	"	"	86
Deceased and dropped from Roll during 1873,.....	1	"	4	"	1	"	"	6
Pensioners Dec. 31, 1873,..	5	"	70	"	5	"	"	80

The Committee on Pensions, in presenting their annual financial statement, respectfully report that there are at present eighty pensioners under their charge, viz. : Five members, seventy widows and five children. One of these members has been confined to his bed by inflammatory rheumatism for a number of years, and is wholly dependent on the Society for support. The other four are very aged, but are in comparative good health, and their pensions of one hundred and fifty-six dollars per annum, with occasional donations, are a great help and comfort to them in their old age.

The seventy widows on the pension list vary in age from 47 to 89 years, and some of them have been thirty-five years on the roll. They are each allowed an annual pension of fifty-two dollars, besides donations.

They are all very respectable ; but some of them are very poor, and one has been confined to her bed by sickness for several years, and is dependent on the Society for support.

The five children on the roll belong to widows, who are also pensioners. They receive an annual pension of twenty dollars until they are fourteen years of age.

During the past year one member and three widows

havedied, and one widow has been dropped from the roll, having re-married.

The Committee have only been called upon to pay the funeral expenses of two widow pensioners.

The burial ground, placed under the charge of this Committee, has been properly laid out and numbered, and one widow pensioner has been interred therein during the past year.

The Committee, in fulfilling the important trust committed to their charge, have considered it their duty to be as liberal as possible to those pensioners who are poor and needy, and it gives them great pleasure to state that this benevolent fund has cheered the declining years of many a poor brother and lonely widow, who would otherwise be thrown on the cold charity of the world.

Respectfully submitted.

ANDREW HUTTON,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

1873.		
Jan. 1st, Balance on hand,	$720 01	
Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,	2,500 00	
" for Drawing Materials,	194 35	
		$3,414 36

DISBURSEMENTS.

For Superintendent's and Teachers' Salaries,	$2,315 50	
" Supplies,	254 32	
" Repairs,	202 37	
" Anniversary Expenses,	81 90	
" Insurance,	14 85	
		2,868 94
Balance on hand,		$545 42

In rendering our Annual Report it is our pleasure to state, that the School is in a prosperous condition, and

there are as many pupils as can be accommodated, the number being in excess of former years.

There are 490 names on the roll, the average attendance being 250.

In the Free Hand Class there are	302
" Book-keeping and Writing Classes,	118
" Architectural Class,	39
" Mechanical Class,	31

The average age of the pupils is 17 years.

There are four Free Hand teachers, one Architectural, one Mechanical, and one Book-keeping and Writing teacher.

Respectfully submitted.

HAVILAH M. SMITH,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1st, 1873,	$1,453 06	
Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,	10,000 00	
" " Fines,	882 02	
" " Catalogues,	227 25	
" " Pay Readers,	214 00	
" " Books lost,	37 00	
" " Old paper,	65 63	
" " De Milt Library, proportion of expenses,	75 00	
		$12,953 96

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for Books,	$2,384 87
" " Binding Books,	1,415 58
" " Binding Catalogues,	47 89
" " Stationery and Printing,	690 25
" " Newspapers and Magazines,	337 92
" " Advertising,	26 10
" " Repairs and Fixtures,	281 82
" " Wood, Coal and Ice,	184 60
" " Covering Books,	221 92
" " Incidental Expenses and Supplies,	247 41

Paid for Insurance,	$337 50	
" " Salaries, Librarian and Assistants,	5,844 60	
" " Collector,	97 15	
		$12,117 61
Balance on hand January 1st, 1874,		$836 35

DE MILT LIBRARY.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1st, 1873,	$85 10	
Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,	300 00	
		$385 10

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for Books,	$261 04	
" " Magazines,	25 12	
" " Binding,	17 50	
" Apprentices' Library, proportion of expenses,	75 00	
		$378 66
Balance on hand January 1st, 1874,		$6 44

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT,

For the Year ending July 12th, 1873.

During the past year the whole of the Apprentices' Library, including the Lorillard bequest, has been registered and re-numbered on a new system, and the result as regards the number of volumes in the Library is as follows:

Number of Volumes registered in Apprentices' Library, as shown by the accession lists, is	38,919	
In hands of delinquent readers of 1872–73, still unnumbered on new system,	123	
Now in Library with old numbers,	16	
		39,058

From which must be deducted:

Volumes condemned having new numbers,	162	
Delinquent books of 1871–72 (having new numbers) not yet returned,	10	
		172
Total number of Volumes in Library October 31, 1873,		38,886

This amount includes 146 books still in the hands of readers of 1872–73, of which, as reported above, 123 still require to be re-numbered. There are also in store room about 875 volumes, which have been laid aside as surplus copies. As these will be used from time to time, as the copies now in use shall wear out, they may be considered as part of the Library, and will make the number of volumes altogether (in Apprentices' Library) 47,640.

The number of Volumes in De Milt Library as reported was.	4,509	
Added during the year,	148	
		4,657
Total number of Volumes in both Libraries,		52,297

Accounts have been opened with readers as follows:

Apprentices and other male gratuitous Readers,	4,645
Female gratuitous Readers,	2,385
Pay Readers,	114
Members of the Society,	117
Total,	7,261

As compared with the previous year, there are of—

Female Readers,	428 less.		
Pay Readers,	7 "		
Members of the Society,	8 "		
		Total,	443 less.
Apprentices,			440 more.
Total,			3 less.

Since the beginning of the present year, (September, 1873,) there has been a gratifying increase in the number of female readers, there being now about 450 more than at a corresponding period last year.

The number of volumes read during the year was as follows:

	Vols. Read.	Working Days.	Daily Average.
September, 1872,.....	5,777	22	262
October, "	10,121	30	337
November, "	8,698	23	378
December, "	8,747	23	380
January, 1873,.....	12,249	29	423
February, "	11,189	23	479
March, "	12,023	24	500
April, "	15,175	30	505
May, "	11,998	23	521
June, "	10,289	24	428
July, "	5,012	12	418
Total,.....	111,278	265	420

Besides the above, there were 840 volumes read by visitors, which, added, make the total 112,118, and daily average 423 volumes. The average number of volumes taken out by each reader was about 16. As compared with the previous year, there were 9,432 volumes less given out. This, however, is mainly due to the Library being closed two weeks earlier than usual this year.

The following works have been presented during the year:

I. BOOKS.

By Brother S. B. Harris:

Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Hon. J. Eaton, Jr., Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.:

Report of Commissioner of Education for 1871, 8vo., Washington, 1872.

By Hon. Andrew H. Green, Comptroller of City of New-York:

Board of Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks, Second Annual Report for 1871, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Board of Health, New-York City:

Second Annual Report of the Board of Health for 1871, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Messrs. J. M. Wing & Co., Publishers, Chicago:

Merchants and Manufacturers of Chicago, Illustrated, fol., Chicago, 1873.

By Hon. S. Ely, Jr., M. C.:

Papers relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 8vo., Washington, 1871.
Commercial Relations between the United States and Foreign Nations, 8vo., Washington, 1872.
Annual Report of the Commissioner of General Land Office for 1870, 8vo., Washington, 1872.
Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 8vo., Washington, 1871.

By Hon. J. Eaton, Jr., Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.:

Report of the Commissioners of Education for 1872, 8vo., Washington, 1873.

By Hon. G. H. Scribner, Secretary of State, Albany, New-York:

Laws of State of New-York, 96th Session, 8vo., Albany, 1873.

By J. H. Studer, (author):

Columbus, Ohio: its History, Resources and Progress, 12mo., Columbus, 1873.

By New-York Produce Exchange:

Annual Report of the New-York Produce Exchange for 1872–73.

By M. Claude Pelletier, (author):

Le Heretiques Revolutionnaire—Socialistes du XVeme Siecle, 12mo., New-York, 1867, 2 copies.

By some Persons Unknown:

Report of Committee on Law Reporting to the Association of the Bar of New-York, 8vo., New-York, 1873.
Public Papers of J. T. Hoffman, Governor of New-York, 1869–72, 8vo. Albany, 1872.

By H. W. Adams, Publisher:

Good Words, 3 vols. fol. in 1, New-York, 1869–71.

II. PAMPHLETS.

By Brother George Bruce:

5th Supplement to Specimen Book, (of types,) 4to. (No title page.)

By Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.:

Manchester Public Free Libraries—Index Catalogue of Ancoat's Lending Branch, 8vo., Manchester, 1872.
Index Catalogue of Ardwick Lending Branch, 8vo., Manchester, 1872.
Twentieth Annual Report on Working of the Public Free Libraries.

By Hon. J. Eaton, Jr., Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.:

Circular of Information of Bureau of Education for November, 1872, 8vo., Washington, 1872.
Circulars of Information of Bureau of Education, Nos. 1–3, 3 vols. 8vo., Washington, 1873.
Circulars of Information of Bureau of Education, No. 4, 8vo., Washington, 1873.

By J. Browning, Esq.:

Columbia College, New-York City, Officers and Students for 1872–73, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Childrens' Aid Society:

Twentieth Annual Report, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Board of Health, New-York City:

Second Annual Report, April 11, 1871, to April 10, 1872, 8vo., New-York, 1872.

By Young Men's Mercantile Library and Mechanics' Institute, Pittsburgh:

Twenty-fifth Annual Report for 1872, 8vo., Pittsburgh, 1873.

By Hon. C. L. Merriam, M. C. of New-York:

Speech, March 1, 1873, 8vo., Watertown, 1873.

By Columbia College, New-York City:

Officers and Students for 1872–73, 8vo., New-York, 1873.

By Mercantile Library Association, New-York City:

Fifty-second Annual Report, 8vo., New-York, 1873, 2 copies.

By W. F. Poole, Librarian:

Public Library of Cincinnati, Sixth Annual Report, 8vo., Cincinnati, 1873.

By W. B. Wickersham, Librarian:

Chicago Public Library, First Annual Report, 8vo., Chicago, 1873.

By Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge:

Official Register, Session 1872–73, 8vo., New-Orleans, 1873.

By H. W. Jones, Corresponding Secretary:

Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco, Cal., 17th Annual Address and Report by President, 8vo., San Francisco, 1873.

By Messrs. Barclay & Co., Publishers:

Harness, A. C., Flowers of Fancy, 12mo., Philadelphia, 1873.
Genius of Democracy, 12mo., Philadelphia, 1873.
Great Trial, 8vo., Philadelphia, 1873.

By Home for Incurables:

Seventh Annual Report, 12mo., New-York, 1873.

By some Persons Unknown:

New-York City Council of Political Reform, 8vo., New-York, 1873.
New-York City "Ring;" its Origin, Maturity and Fall. By S. J. Tilden. 8vo., New-York, 1873, 3 copies.
Gorham Manufacturing Company *vs.* G. C. White. Appeal from Circuit Court, New-York, to Supreme Court, United States, 4to. (No title page.)
West Side Association, New-York, 1872–73. Doc. No. 1, 8vo., New-York, 1873.
Kelly, W. D., Manufacturing Resources of Kansas City; an Address, 8vo., Kansas City, 1873, 2 copies.
Clarke, C. C. P. Method of Representation in large Constituencies, 8vo., New-York, 1873.
Adams, C. F, Memorial Address on Life of W. H. Seward, 8vo., New-York, 1873, 2 copies.
Hobart, (Lord.) "Mission" of Richard Cobden, 16mo., London, n. d.
Report of Board of Civil Service Examiners for Treasury Department, 8vo., Washington, 1873.
Genet, H. W., Communication to Senate of New-York, 8vo., Albany, 1873.

The Report of the Librarian gives in such detail the workings of the Library that little remains to be said in that regard.

It may, however, be stated, that our Library is now arranged and managed under a system as nearly perfect, we think, as any that has ever yet been devised, the result of much study and labor by our Librarian; and whoever feels sufficient interest to investigate its workings, by examining the arrangement of the books on the shelves and the manner of recording their issue to readers, can, from information and details thus obtained, be satisfied of the fact.

It will be necessary soon to publish a new Catalogue for the convenience of our Readers, and as it is intended that it shall be a model one, an additional appropriation, besides our regular one, may be asked for; but with as careful and prudent a Purchasing or Finance Committee as we have had last year, the Society may depend upon a judicious use of the funds entrusted to this Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. S. Chatterton,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

1873.				
Jan'y	1.	Balance on hand,.....	$770 88	
Feb'y	5.	Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,..	1,000 00	
Dec.	8.	" " " " ..	900 00	
				$2,670 88

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid T. T. Sedgwick, Lecturer,.....	$100 00
" T. H. Warwick, "	100 00
" Wm. Ormiston, "	100 00

Paid Bret Harte, Lecturer,.....	$250 00	
" W. C. Richards, "	125 00	
" T. De Cordova, "	110 00	
" G. Schultz, Organist, ...	100 00	
" Steinway & Sons, rent of Hall,.....	480 00	
" Advertising, Printing, Postage and Janitor,.....	221 06	
		1,586 06
Balance on hand January 1, 1874,.....		$1,084 82

Respectfully submitted.

EDWIN DOBBS,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND SINKING FUND COMMITTEE.

Amount of the Fund, Dec. 31, 1872,.....	$21,075 13	
Received from Interest and Premium,.....	732 72	
" " D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	10,268 12	
		$32,075 97

Invested as follows:

U. S. 5-20 Stock,.....	$10,001 25	
U. S. 1881 "	10,192 50	
New-York City Bonds,.....	10,000 00	
On deposit in Savings Banks,.....	1,878 85	
Cash uninvested,.....	3 37	
		$32,075 97

The Committee feel that this report shows the trust committed to their care to be in a healthy, growing condition, and creates the hope that, if generously nurtured by you and carefully guarded, it will some day prove itself a powerful lever for the elevation of the Society.

Respectfully submitted.

ANDREW MILLS,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary would respectfully report:

That there are at present on the rolls of the Society 1,059 members' names, of which 570 are regularly notified of the meetings of the Society; of the remainder, many are living in other places, and perhaps some have died, without the Society having been notified thereof.

There have been received into the Society during the past year fourteen new members, and during the same period thirteen of our brothers have been called away by death.

It will thus be seen that our numbers have not increased during the year. This seems strange, when we remember the advantages of membership; of our Library, with its benefits to the working boys and girls of the city, as well as to ourselves; the writing, book-keeping and drawing classes; the lectures, a source of instruction and amusement to members and their families; the advantages of association with a band of brothers, as well as the glorious feature of benevolence, doing good to a brother or the widow of a brother, with the reflection that we will not be forgotten if in Providence we should some day need sympathy and assistance ourselves. And we are persuaded that there is a large number of our best citizens who, if they knew us, would appreciate us, and apply to be enrolled as members of our Society.

There has been a greater degree of interest in the Society manifested by the members, and every meeting during the past year has been well attended.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. EARLE,
Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,

FOR THE YEAR 1873.

The Finance Committee, in accordance with the By-Laws, respectfully submit the following report of the financial affairs of the Society, with a statement of its assets and liabilities, and estimates of its probable receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year:

Balance on hand January 1st, 1873, viz.:

With the Treasurer,.....	$321 08	
" " " in U. S. Trust Co.,.....	4,737 50	
" " Finance Committee,.....	283 90	
" " Pension "	1,119 00	
" " School "	720 01	
" " Library "	1,538 16	
" " Literary and Scientific Committee,	770 88	
" " Building and Sinking Fund "	21,075 13	
		$30,565 66
Received by Treasurer, as per Report,.....		40,757 62
" " Library Committee, as per Report,.....		1,425 90
" " Finance " " "		17 56
" " School " " "		194 35
" " Building and Sinking Fund Committee,..		732 72
		$73,693 81

There has been expended during the year 1873, viz.:

By Treasurer, as per Report,	$3,573 35	
" Finance Committee, as per Report,	5,499 23	
" Pension " " "	7,311 00	
" School " " "	2,868 94	
" Library " " "	12,117 61	
" " " De Milt Library, as per Report,	303 66	
" Literary and Scientific Committee, " "	1,586 06	
		33,259 85
		$40,433 96

ASSETS.

Amount with Treasurer,	$55 73	
" " " in Trust Co.,	4,000 00	
" " Finance Committee,	521 23	
" " Pension "	1,308 00	
" " School "	545 42	
" " Library "	842 79	
" " Literary and Scientific Committee,	1,084 82	
" " Building and Sinking Fund "	32,075 97	
		$40,433 96
Real Estate, Park Place and Broadway,		300,000 00
" " Crosby-street and Broadway,		125,000 00
Mechanics' National Bank, par value,		20,275 00
United States Bonds, par value,		43,000 00
Furniture,		1,000 00
Books in Library,		40,000 00
Leasehold No. 12 Chambers-street,		4,000 00
		$573,708 96

LIABILITIES.

Amount due Library Fund,	$1,907 66	
" " De Milt Library,	5,000 00	
" " " Interest,	300 00	
" " for improvement of De Milt Library,	300 00	
		$7,507 66

ESTIMATE OF THE PROBABLE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1874.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

Rent of Park Place and Broadway,	$24,100 00	
" " No. 12 Chambers-street,	3,000 00	
" " Broadway and Crosby-street,	8,000 00	
Dividend on Mechanics' National Bank Stock,	2,027 50	
Interest on United States and other Securities,	4,500 00	
Initiation of Members,	750 00	
		$42,377 50

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES.

Finance Committee,	$4,000 00	
Committee on Pensions,	8,000 00	
School Committee,	2,500 00	
Library Committee, including interest on Fund,	10,000 00	
De Milt Library,	300 00	
Literary and Scientific Committee,	2,000 00	
Taxes and Croton Water Rents,	1,700 00	
Ground Rent, No. 12 Chambers-street,	125 00	
Salaries of Treasurer, Secretary, Janitor and Doorkeeper,	1,760 00	
		$30,385 00

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN T. CONOVER,
NOAH WORRALL,
A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN,
MATTHIAS BLOODGOOD,
GEORGE I. BYRD,
WM. OTIS MUNROE,
DANIEL D. WRIGHT,
} *Finance Committee.*

MECHANICS' HALL, *January* 31*st*, 1874.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

WILLIAM H. GEDNEY, Esq.,

PRESIDENT OF THE

GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN,

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Brothers :

It has been the custom, heretofore, with our presiding officers, on assuming their positions, to address their fellow members upon topics of interest to our Society, and, in a measure, those topics have become a part of its history.

I shall, therefore, to a limited extent, follow in the path of my "illustrious predecessors."

I enter upon my duties, as presiding officer of the Society for the ensuing year, with diffidence, conscious of my own incompetency to discharge its duties so as to fully meet your expectations.

Parliamentary rules, which are of necessity, arbitrary, should be applied and enforced only with calmness, and to harmonize conflicting opinions.

Favored with your forbearance and indulgent support, I trust I shall be able to discharge this, as well as other duties, so as in some measure to merit your approbation.

I do not propose to enter largely into the examination of any of the statistics of our institution at this time, but shall be content to notice a very few.

I shall refer you to the reports of the several Committees, when published, for more full and complete accounts of the practical workings of our Society, which I assure you will be both creditable and satisfactory.

Mutual protection and financial benefit was the *watchword* of the few honorable and worthy men who origi-

nated and organized our Society. And what has it *not* accomplished since?

The noble *men* of our race, succeeding one another almost through one entire century, fully three generations, to the present time, have built up an institution, second to none of its kind in this or any other country on the face of the globe.

Many, very many, have had cause to pronounce it blessed. I think I but express the sentiments of my brethren when I say we are proud of our institution, and its workings.

Its Library, with its 50,000 volumes of choice reading matter, and its 7,000 readers, are subjects of honest pride.

It is also an "almoner," with a great heart, distributing, annually, upward of $7,000, through a committee of gentlemen, with whose superiors, in point of ability and activity, no other society was ever blessed.

Its School is of incalculable benefit to the youth, and particularly to the apprentices, of our city; an average of about 250 pupils being in attendance every evening during the term. These are instructed by a competent corps of teachers, in mechanical, architectural, object and free hand drawing, and in writing and bookkeeping. Some of these branches are *not* taught in our common day and evening schools.

We may, therefore, be assured, that our School is doing a great and good work amongst a class in our city who would not be reached and benefited in any other manner.

Through the agency of our Literary and Scientific Committee, and by *no other* agency, has the public become somewhat acquainted with our Society. And as fast as the people learn of our good works, they are willing to, and do accord "honor to whom honor is due." Our lectures are a source of very great intellectual enjoyment and moral influence; that they are much appreciated by an intelligent class of our community, the large audiences fully attest.

Our Committees have all shown themselves to be com-

posed of workmen that need not be ashamed; and, while I would draw no invidious comparisons, I must be pardoned for particularizing the Pension Committee, who, "being in labors abundant," have "acquitted themselves like men."

Need I say to my brethren, forget not the aged and infirm, and the unfortunate of our membership? Perhaps not. But still, those of us who are in the morning or meridian of life, and are actively engaged in our daily avocations, are very apt to forget the less favored. Gentle reminders are occasionally necessary.

It is a pleasure to us, when in *health*, to have our old friends visit us; but what a consolation it is, to greet them when we are sick and feeble.

One word about our much talked of change of location. I think the time has come when none of us desire to remain much longer where we now are.

But the difficulty seems to be just here, and this question is invariably put forth, "where shall we go?" My answer to that is, raise a Committee, or empower the present one, from our body, to purchase a site, and locate our new home; and having accomplished that, let them report to us what they have done, and let us go thither.

In conclusion, I may express the hope that our encouraging and brilliant career in the *past* may be supplemented in the future, by ever increasing social, intellectual and moral profit to each of us, as, with steadfastness of purpose and earnestness of soul, we seek to emulate the example of *Him* who, when on earth, went about doing good.

Standing Committees.

1874.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

JOHN T. CONOVER, *Chairman*, 312 *West Twenty-Eighth Street.*
NOAH WORRALL, *Secretary*, 28 *Elm Street.*
MATTHIAS BLOODGOOD, 149 *West Twenty-Second Street.*
ADOLPHUS F. OCKERSHAUSEN, 380 *South Street.*
GEORGE I. BYRD, 6 *West Twenty-Ninth Street.*
HAVILAH M. SMITH, *Second Vice-President, ex officio.*
DANIEL D. WRIGHT, *Treasurer of the Society, ex officio.*

[Meet Monthly, on the last Friday in each month, at 4 o'clock, P. M.]

COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

ANDREW HUTTON, *Chairman*, 349 *West Twenty-Second Street.*
GEORGE B. BILLERWELL, *Secretary*, 224 *West Houston Street.*
JOHN A. WEEKS, 475 *West Twenty-Second Street.*
JACOB C. BOGERT, 68 *Bank Street.*
JOHN NICHOL, 52 *Perry Street.*
HAMILTON R. SEARLES, 178 *West Eleventh Street.*
HENRY R. WARNER, 127 *Worth Street.*
OLIVER A. FARRIN, 13 *Leroy Street.*

[Meet on the Monday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at 7½ o'clock, P. M., and on the 15th and 16th of February, May, August and November, at 2 o'clock, P. M.]

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ALEXANDER GAW, *Chairman*, 215 *Mercer Street.*
WILLIAM T. PETERSON, *Treasurer*, 144 *Bowery.*
RICHARD TAYLOR, *Secretary*, 225 *West Twentieth Street.*
ABRAHAM McBRIDE, 269 *West Eleventh Street.*
HENRY H. WINANS, 71 *Wall Street.*
JOHN C. CARSON, 109 *Perry Street.*
THOMAS D. STETSON, 16 *Murray Street.*
WILLIAM MILES, *Savings Bank, Astor Place.*
SAMUEL McCOLLOUGH, 109 *Leroy Street.*
DANIEL HERBERT, 215 *East Forty-Eighth Street.*
JOHN M. MOFFITT, 670 *Hudson Street.*
NILES G. WHITE, 340 *Madison Street.*
WILLIAM H. GEDNEY, *President, ex officio.*

[Meet Monthly, on the Wednesday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.]

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

JOHN R. VOORHIS, *Chairman*, 786 *Greenwich Street.*
ALBERT G. BOGERT, *Treasurer*, 59 *Christopher Street.*
WILLIAM H. BURRAS, *Secretary*, 52 *King Street.*
STEPHEN S. CHATTERTON, 116 *Maiden Lane.*
WADE B. WORRALL, 28 *Elm Street.*
RICHARD POILLON, 224 *South Street.*
JOHN H. WAYDELL, 21 *Old Slip.*
ABISHA S. DICKINSON, 443 *West Fourteenth Street.*
ABRAHAM J. FELTER, 290 *West Fourth Street.*
JOHN J. TUCKER, 37 *West Twelfth Street.*
SAMUEL P. PATTERSON, 122 *Bowery.*
HENRY MOORE, 41 *King Street.*
WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, *First Vice-President, ex officio.*

[Meet Monthly, on the Friday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at 8 o'clock, P. M.]

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

EDWIN DOBBS, *Chairman, Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange*, 27 *Park Place.*
MARC EIDLITZ, *Treasurer*, " " " "
FREDERICK H. GROSZ, *Secretary*, 44 *East Twenty-First Street.*
HENRY WILSON, 326 *East Eighteenth Street.*
DAVID JARDINE, 1267 *Broadway.*
JOHN W. MORGAN, 152 *West Twelfth Street.*
JOHN M. DODD, JR., 412 *East Fifty-First Street.*
JOSEPH SMITH, 215 *East Eleventh Street.*
JAMES J. BURNET, *Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange*, 27 *Park Place.*
JOHN H. ROGERS, " " " "
JOHN BANTA, " " " "
HENRY L. SLOTE, 93 *Fulton Street.*
WILLIAM H. GEDNEY, *President, ex officio.*

[Meet on the third Monday of February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, at 8 o'clock, P. M.]

BUILDING AND SINKING FUND COMMITTEE.

ANDREW MILLS, *Chairman*, 215 *Second Avenue.*
JOHN PALMER, *Secretary*, 136 *West Forty-Eighth Street.*
DANIEL D. WRIGHT, 463 *East Houston Street.*

GEORGE W. WALKER, DOORKEEPER.
JACOB SCHWARTZ, JR., LIBRARIAN, 472 *Broadway.*

[Regular Meetings of the Society, first Wednesday evening of each month, except July and August, or if falling upon a legal holiday, then on the following Wednesday evening.]